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ON THE CONGO.

MARIA L. EVE.

For us, the sun has risen, long ago,
Rejoicing in his noontide light we go;
Can we forget, dear friends, can we forget
There is a land where darkness dwelleth yet?
Where morning hath not chased the night away,
Where Nature, fierce and cruel, holds her sway,
Entrenched behind her tangled tropic vines,
Where rolls the Congo, and the bamboo twines.

Can we forget that there are human souls
That dwell in darkness, like the bats and moles,
Where grows the rich and oil-bearing palm,
Yet Nature yields for them no healing balm,
While fevers fierce stand guard upon their shores,
And deadly reptiles round about their doors
Resist alike the feet of foes and friends,
Where on its seaward way the Congo wends,

*And there are men with human souls to-day,
That prout about, like any beasts of prey;
Unto the strong, the weak are naught but food;
The Afric lion is as tender in his mood,
When roaring, hungry through his native wood,
And thirsting for some weaker creature's blood,
As these poor souls (for whom the Christ hath died),
Where flows the Congo, and the lilies bide.*

Ah, friends, what cruel gods their minds control;
For when there goes beyond the gates a soul
That they would honor, lo! unto his tomb
They bring the living—unresisting, dumb—
(Blind victims, with no mercy to invoke),
To bow their heads unto the headman's stroke.
So hard these hearts where Christ hath never been,
Where rolls the Congo through its banks of green.

And some there are, would learn of things that lie
Beyond this narrow bound of earth and sky,
Of Death and of the soul that dieth not,
And question what shall be its endless lot.
And are there none to answer, none to go
And tell them heaven is nearer than they know?
And are there none the story of the Christ to tell,
Who died for them that on the Congo dwell?

And shall it be, dear friends, that all in vain,
For these poor souls the Lord of heaven was slain?
And what if, some day, we should hear Him say,
"Where are the souls I died for in Cathay?"
May we not answer then, with ruth and shame,
"Nay, Lord, but they have never known thy name."
May we not bring, dear Master, to thy hand
Some fruit from far-off Congo's lonely land?

Augusta, Ga., July, 1891.

THE ABOLITION OF THE OPIUM TRAFFIC.

The opium revenue is not going to be given up easily. The fear is that, under pressure to abandon the manufacture of the drug, the government will throw the making of it open and take taxes from any heathen or Parsee who, having no conscience, will jump at a chance of enriching himself, and thus the latter end of the Opium question may be much worse than the beginning.

BOY SOLDIERS IN FRANCE.

The Boys' Brigade, or Cadet Corps, in France is about to be disbanded or remodelled, in consequence of the vicious habits which the boys contract. For some time it was stated that the authorities had seen with regret that the boys had assumed an air of military swagger, and had taken to drinking, smoking and swearing, in imitation of grown-up soldiers.

RESPONSES OF PUBLIC MEN.

The Memorial sent to President Harrison by the American Peace Society, requesting him to recommend in his Annual Message a Conference of Governments at Chicago in 1893 for the purpose of extending and making permanent international arbitration, was received and acknowledged by him at Washington, D. C. A copy of the same, accompanied by a personal note to Secretary Blaine, at Bar Harbor, Maine, has been also courteously acknowledged.

We learn from the *London Herald of Peace* that the Chief Secretary of Queensland, Hon. S. W. Griffith, in a letter acknowledging his receipt of the transactions of the London Peace Congress, says:—

"It is impossible I think to read this without feeling the warmest sympathy with the objects of the Members of the Congress. Unfortunately, the work must be gradual and slow, but I have no fear of its ultimate success."

The President of Ecuador writes most cordially from Quito conveying his thanks for the Report of the London Peace Congress, and alludes in particular to the efforts which his country has made in its diplomatic intercourse with other nations, to provide for a recourse to Arbitration instead of War, in the event of any disputes arising between them. He states that an arbitral clause has recently been inserted in two Treaties made by Ecuador with France and Spain respectively. And the President concludes with the words:—"May Almighty God, whose name the Peace Congress reverently invokes, bless your endeavors for the accomplishment of His inscrutable purposes, and prosper your united efforts to bring about the reign of justice amongst the brotherhood of nations, by the substitution of charity in place of selfishness and pride, and by your animating reminders that all people are the children, in common, of the one great Creator and King."

EXTENDED CONSCRIPTION IN ITALY.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies has approved a Bill lengthening the term of liability to military service three years, so that no citizen is free from military duty until his forty-second year. There is great discontent because of the measure, especially among the poorer classes.

DOING EVIL TO PROMOTE GOOD.

"Emperor William of Germany, while presiding at a recent ministerial council, announced that he had devised a scheme for a lottery by which he hoped to obtain 8,000,000 marks, to be used in the work of combatting slavery in Africa." So say the papers, but the statement is too absurd for belief.

The causes of war should be cut up, root and branch, on their first appearance. Many real injuries and slights must be overlooked. Men should not be too zealous for the phantom called national glory, which often means the misery of individuals. Gentle behavior on one side will tend to secure it on the other; but the insolence of a minister may give unpardonable offence and be dearly paid for by war.—*Erasmus*.